



COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE

August 10, 2020

The Honorable Sidney Katz
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear President Katz and Members of the County Council:

The Commission on Child Care is deeply appreciative of the work you have done during this health crisis for our community.

As MCPS has decided to conduct all learning online in the fall, there is strong need for families to have child care support for distance learning. There is also a great deal of concern from parents and guardians that this care will be too expensive; particularly for families that have more than one child that will require distance learning support.

We are asking you to urgently consider expanding funding for school age subsidies in Montgomery County's Working Parents Assistance Program (WPA) and to encourage the Maryland State Child Care Scholarship Program (CCS) administered by the Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care (MSDE OCC) to do the same.

This pandemic has illuminated the inequities that exist within our country and across Maryland and has reinforced the need for high quality school age school programs to help mitigate the opportunity gap and support children's academic, social, and emotional well-being. **Increasing the amount of the subsidy to cover a full day of child care will be critical to helping all families afford this crucial learning support.**

Funds for increased child care subsidies are urgently needed. School age care is critical to the economic recovery and long-term health of Montgomery County and the entire state of Maryland. For more than 50 years, before and after school programs have provided families trusted and safe learning environments for their children while they work. It is critical that this partnership with working families is sustained.

Please act now to support school age children.

Sincerely,

Michelle Belski
Chair

c: Marc Elrich, County Executive

Department of Health and Human Services

1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 200, Rockville, Maryland 20852 240-777-1716, 240-773-1190 FAX

montgomerycountymd.gov/311



240-773-3556 TTY